

Enabling Low Carbon Living in Shek Kip Mei (ENLOCALI)

Date of Submission

19-Apr-2013

Department

Public Policy

Principal Investigator

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Project duration

02 January 2012 - 30 June 2013

Source of funding

Idea Incubator Project n. 6987002

Link

<http://enlocali.wordpress.com/>

Description

The use of carbon footprints – at city, community or individual level – highlight specific sectors through which forms of lower carbon living can be enabled. In Hong Kong energy efficiency has been emphasised as a key mechanism for reducing the city's carbon footprint. Similar actions are also found at other scales with, for example, WWF highlighting and calculating carbon footprints as a way of promoting individual pro-environmental behaviour. In light of such approaches, it is thus essential to understand how a lower carbon lifestyle – namely a reduction in an individual or collective carbon footprint – can be enabled.

This project – Enabling Low Carbon Living in the Shek Kip Mei Estate (ENLOCALI) takes the WWF 2010 Ecological Footprint Report as its starting point. It provides a 'test ground' for faculty and students from the Environmental Policy major, Department of Public and Social Administration, to work in collaboration with the District Council and residents from the Shek Kip Mei neighbourhood in Sham Shui Po District in order to:

- Pursue a discovery-led, innovative project of local interest and impact in the field of environmental public policy and management
- Demonstrate an understanding of the existing approaches, gaps in knowledge and implementation of low carbon living in localities
- Raise social awareness of City U faculty and students and contribute to the quality of life of deprived communities through knowledge dissemination
- Analyse basic research data in a systematic way
- Exhibit ability to set ideas in a wider context, to sustain them, and to reach conclusions

Expected outcomes

Throughout 2012, faculty and students undertook visits and conducted questionnaires in households and shops to assess current low carbon living practices, based on a Discoverers' Brief produced to guide investigations. This was followed by a Stakeholder Workshop where students presented their initial findings to residents.

In April 2013, a Dissemination Workshop was held with two key objectives:

- To present the project findings and launch: the Discoverers' Brief, the Residents' Brief, the ENLOCALI website and the ENLOCALI Toolkit. These propose actions that can be taken to enable a low carbon lifestyle in Shek Kip Mei and elsewhere and include case studies of low carbon living practices and suggestions of practical activities that can be undertaken in individual households and small commercial enterprises.
- To reflect on the opportunities for low carbon living in Asia from academic and practitioner perspectives and open up discussion about the challenges of implementing low carbon living in practice.

Note:

The project outcome includes a toolkit that contains the precision instruments and documentation to carry out the field work. This is available for viewing at B7518, Academic 1.